

The newspapers show a decrease of over $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., owing principally, it is believed, to the publication of the late Otago Provincial Government *Gazette* having been discontinued, over 260,000 copies of which, it is stated, passed through the post annually.

63 new offices have been opened, three re-opened, and 19 closed.

13 offices have been constituted offices for the transaction of Money Order and Savings Bank business.

The number of post cards posted during the year was 81,274.

Judging from results, the circulation of post cards has not diminished the revenue. The receipts on account of local collections for the past year show a larger increase than in any former year. Treating post cards as letters, for the purpose of comparison, it is found that the increase of local letters for 1877 was 22,521 over the increase for the previous year. Although the post cards are not extensively used, it may be accepted as a fact that they are regarded by the public with favour as a ready and cheap medium of communication.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The gross revenue collections for the financial year ended 30th June ultimo, and the estimated expenditure for the same period, are given in the statement underneath:—

REVENUE.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Collected within the colony ...	96,664	18 8	Salaries ...	38,010	8 8
On account of Imperial postages ...	15,000	0 0	Conveyance of Mails by Sea... ..	57,184	15 3
San Francisco Service, payments by non-contracting colonies ...	2,526	14 1	" Inland Mails... ..	27,612	19 9
Balance of expenditure over revenue ...	21,927	1 0	Contingencies	4,810	10 1
			Estimated liabilities	9,000	0 0
	<u>£136,118</u>	<u>13 9</u>		<u>£136,118</u>	<u>13 9</u>

The revenue collected within the colony increased by the sum of £10,117 4s. 8d., or 11·68 per cent., while the gross collections show an increase of £11,717, or 11·43 per cent. above the revenue for the preceding year.

The excess of expenditure over revenue is put down at £21,927 1s. For the previous year £37,236 4s. 7d. represented the actual difference of expenditure over revenue.

To arrive at a correct estimate of the value of the actual work performed by the department, £52,848 9s. 4d., the sum set against official postage, should be taken credit for. This would show that the possible earnings of the department exceeded its gross expenditure by a sum no less than £30,921 8s. 4d.

OFFICIAL POSTAGE.

The extent to which the Post Office has been the medium for the transmission of "free" or officially-franked correspondence, may be gathered from the following statement:—

	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Auckland	2,141	17 9	Christchurch	2,301	17 6
Thames	311	17 0	Hokitika	640	17 8
New Plymouth	930	1 3	Greymouth	378	8 0
Napier	347	2 5	Dunedin	4,320	1 8
Wellington	40,143	15 8	Invercargill	636	17 8
Nelson	351	0 4			
Westport	153	5 10	Total	<u>£52,848</u>	<u>9 4</u>
Blenheim	192	6 8			

DEPARTMENTAL.

63 new Post Offices were established, and 3 re-opened during the year, at the following places:—

Albury, Canterbury	Karitane, Otago	Pukaki Ferry, Canterbury
Albury (reopened), Canterbury	Kamo, Auckland	Russell's Flat, Canterbury
Akuaku, Auckland	Kekerangu, Marlborough	Scott's Ferry, Wellington
Annandale, Otago	Kirtleburn, Otago	Silverstream, Canterbury
Ashton, Canterbury	Kirwee, Canterbury	Takaka East, Nelson
Bealey Road, Canterbury	Kohu Kohu, Auckland	Takapau, Hawke's Bay
Blackburn, Hawke's Bay	Lake Tarawera, Auckland	Teaneraki, Otago
Blackmount, Otago	Makaraka, Hawke's Bay	Te Kopuru, Auckland
Blue Cliffs, Canterbury	Marina Junction, Nelson	The Port, Nelson
Caledonian Road, Canterbury	Methven, Canterbury	Tologa Bay, Auckland
Canoe Creek, Westland	Mititai, Auckland	Tua Marina, Marlborough
Carnarvon, Wellington	Motuotaria, Hawke's Bay	Upper Matakaitaki, Nelson
Cave, Canterbury	Mount Stuart, Otago	Urenui, Taranaki
Chertsey, Canterbury	Mullet Point, Auckland	Waerangahika, Hawke's Bay
Dillman's Town, Westland	Ngapara, Otago	Waihaha, Auckland
Eketahuna (reopened), Wellington	Ohiwa, Auckland	Waimate Junction, Canterbury
Ellesmere, Canterbury	Orwell Creek, Westland	Wangaruru, Auckland
Giles' Terrace (reopened), Nelson	Otaio, Canterbury	Waterton, Canterbury
Gladstone, Wellington	Paihia, Auckland	Westbrook, Westland
Goodfellow's, Westland	Pakuranga, Auckland	Weston, Otago
Green Street, Canterbury	Phillipstown, Canterbury	West Wanganui, Nelson
Horseshoe Bay, Otago	Pollock Settlement, Auckland	Wharekahika, Auckland.

The under-mentioned 19 Post Offices have been closed:—

Albury, Canterbury	Kerikeri, Auckland	Slateford, Nelson
Arowhenua, Canterbury	Mount Stuart, Otago	Taylor's Creek, Nelson
Bellefont, Otago	Oroua, Wellington	Westerfield, Canterbury
Carrickton, Otago	Ohiwa, Auckland	Welshman's Gully, Otago
Drayton, Canterbury	Pekapeka, Hawke's Bay	Woodthorpe, Hawke's Bay.
Eketahuna, Wellington	Pakuratahi, Wellington	
German Terrace, Nelson	Saltwater Beach, Westland	